

Message Text

SECRET

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----- 121851

O R 210224Z PEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
SECDEF
CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 039185

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, SN, NZ, UK

SUBJECT: USN ACCESS TO STORES BASIN AND FUEL DEPOT

REF: SINGAPORE 0671.

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1. WE AGREE FULLY ON IMPORTANCE OF ASSURING CONTINUED USN

ACCESS TO SENOKO FUEL DEPOT AND RELATED BERTHS. ALSO AGREE THAT OPTIMUM ARRANGEMENT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE TO HAVE NEW ZEALAND ASSUME CONTROL OF THESE FACILITIES UPON UK WITHDRAWAL.

2. IN VIEW URGENCY OF TIME FACTOR AS INDICATED REFTEL, REQUEST ACTION ADDRESSEES TO UNDERTAKE FOLLOWING:

A. FOR WELLINGTON: REQUEST YOU APPROACH GNZ AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS USG INTEREST IN GNZ TAKING OVER CONTROL OF SENOKO FUEL DEPOT AND RELATED SHIP BERTHS UPON UK WITHDRAWAL. YOU SHOULD STRESS IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO RETAINING ACCESS TO STORES BASIN FUEL AND BERTHING FACILITIES FOR US NAVAL OPERATIONS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA AND INDIAN OCEAN, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT GNZ COULD GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO MANAGING THIS FACILITY WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT NEW ZEALAND (AS WELL AS US, UK AND AUSTRALIAN) WARSHIPS WOULD BE GIVEN PREFERRED ACCESS TO THESE BERTHS. EMBASSY SHOULD INDICATE THAT IF GNZ IS RECEPTIVE AND IF GOS APPROVAL CAN BE OBTAINED, USG IS PREPARED TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS AT SERVICE LEVEL TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENT, INCLUDING COST SHARING. IN THIS CONNECTION, YOU MAY INFORMALLY ADVISE GNZ THAT USN IS PREPARED TO UNDERWRITE SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF WHAT IT UNDERSTANDS TO BE ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS OF THESE FACILITIES, I.E. ABOUT 200,000 DOLS. IN SUPPORT OF THIS APPROACH EMBASSY MAY DRAW FURTHER ON POINTS CONTAINED IN PARA 7 REFTEL AS IT DEEMS USEFUL. IF GNZ IS RECEPTIVE, SUGGEST YOU ASK THEM HOW THEY WOULD PREFER HANDLE MATTER WITH SINGAPOREANS AND WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY OBJECTION TO AMERICAN AMBASSADOR DISCUSSING IT INFORMALLY WITH DEFENSE MINISTER GOH AS RECOMMENDED PARA 7 REFTEL.

B. FOR SINGAPORE: UNLESS WELLINGTON PERCEIVES OBJECTION, SUGGEST YOU TELL NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER INFORMALLY THAT WE WILL BE APPROACHING GNZ AS INDICATED ABOVE. REGARDING APPROACH TO GOS, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO AWAIT POSITIVE SIGNAL FROM GNZ WELLINGTON BEFORE PROCEEDING. IF GNZ RECEPTIVE TO OUR PROPOSAL, WE COULD WORK OUT
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WITH THEM BEST MEANS OF OBTAINING GOS CONCURRENCE.

C. FOR LONDON: REQUEST YOU INFORM HMG OF OUR INTENTION TO ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH GNZ FOR SENOKO FUEL STORAGE AREA AND RELATED SHIP BERTHS, AND EXPRESS HOPE THAT MEANWHILE UK WILL NOT TAKE ANY ACTIONS THAT MIGHT JEOPARDIZE SUCH ARRANGEMENT. KISSINGER

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NZ, SN, UK, US
To: LONDON
SINGAPORE
WELLINGTON INFO CANBERRA
CINCPAC
DOD
KUALA LUMPUR

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